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Schoone

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(54) **PHALAENOPSIS ORCHID PLANT NAMED**
'BALLROOM'

(50) Latin Name: *Phalaenopsis hybrida*
Varietal Denomination: **Ballroom**

(71) Applicant: **Floricultura**, Heemskerk (NL)

(72) Inventor: **René Schoone**, Assendelft (NL)

(73) Assignee: **Floricultura**, Heemskerk (NL)

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/02 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./311**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC Plt./311
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

PUBLICATIONS

PLUTO Plant Variety Database Jun. 11, 2016.p. 1.*

* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner — Annette Para

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Foley & Lardner LLP;
Sunit Talapatra

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct *Phalaenopsis* plant named 'Ballroom'
particularly characterized by flowers which are white with
some yellow and grey/purple in the labellum; plants which
may be propagated economically and uniformly using tissue
culture; plants which produce more than one inflorescence;
long and sturdy inflorescences; and relatively short, dark-
green foliage.

3 Drawing Sheets

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Latin name of the genus and species of the plant claimed:
Phalaenopsis hybrida.

Variety denomination: 'Ballroom'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Phalaenopsis* plant, botanically known as *Phalaenopsis*
of the Orchidaceae family, and hereinafter referred to by the
cultivar name 'Ballroom'.

Phalaenopsis comprises a genus of about 55 species of
herbaceous perennials many of which, or the hybrids
thereof, are suitable for cultivation in the home or green-
house. *Phalaenopsis* is predominantly epiphytic or rock-
dwelling, and is native to tropical Asia, the Malay Archi-
pelago, and Oceania. The species typically has 2-ranked,
fleshy, oblong or elliptic leaves affixed to a short central stem
(monopodial growth), which vary in size from 5 to 8 inches
to over 2 feet. The leaves may be entirely green or mottled
with silver grey.

Phalaenopsis orchids, often referred to as 'Moth Orchids'
in the horticultural trade, are frequently used to furnish cut
flowers for the florist trade or sold as flowering potted-plants
for home or interiorscape.

Phalaenopsis produces upright or pendent lateral
racemes, often with many showy flowers which open in
succession beginning with the lowermost. The flowers pos-
sess three sepals and three petals; the lateral ones being
alike. The lowermost petal, called the labellum, is three-
lobed and is often more brightly-colored than the other

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flower segments. Flower colors include various shades of
pink, white, yellow and red-brown.

Phalaenopsis orchids are typically propagated from
seeds. Asexual propagation of *Phalaenopsis* is often done
from off-shoots which frequently arise from the lower bracts
of the inflorescence. The resulting plants are detached from
the mother plant and may be planted in a suitable substrate.

The new *Phalaenopsis* 'Ballroom' is a product of a
controlled breeding program conducted by the inventor,
René Schoone, in Strengweg, Heemskerk, The Netherlands.
The objective of the breeding program was to develop a new
Phalaenopsis cultivar particularly characterized by its
attractive and unique colored flowers, economical propaga-
tion via tissue culture, rapid growth, and a plant dimension
suitable for packaging and shipping to the market.

The new *Phalaenopsis* 'Ballroom' originated from a cross
made by the inventor in 2001 in Strengweg, Heemskerk, The
Netherlands. The female or seed parent is the *Phalaenopsis*
cultivar designated 'Hawaiian Dream', unpatented. The
male or pollen parent is the *Phalaenopsis* cultivar designated
'Premium', unpatented. The new *Phalaenopsis* 'Ballroom'
was discovered and selected by the inventor as a single
flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross in a
controlled environment in 2009 in Strengweg, Heemskerk,
The Netherlands.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Phalaenopsis* cultivar by
tissue culture (mericlone) was first performed in Novem-
ber, 2009 in Cieweg 13, Heemskerk, The Netherlands, and
has demonstrated that the combination of characteristics as

herein disclosed for the new cultivar are firmly fixed and retained through successive generations of asexual reproduction. The new cultivar asexually reproduces true-to-type.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be unique characteristics of 'Ballroom', which in combination distinguish this *Phalaenopsis* as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. flowers which are white with some yellow and grey/purple in the labellum;
2. plant produces more than one inflorescence;
3. plants may be propagated economically and uniformly using tissue culture;
4. inflorescences are long and sturdy; and
5. relatively short, dark-green foliage.

In comparison with the parental cultivars of 'Ballroom', the flowers of the female parent 'Hawaiian Dream' are about 10 cm in size, whereas the flowers of 'Ballroom' are about 11 cm in size. The length of the raceme of the male parent 'Premium' is about 60 cm, whereas the length of the raceme of 'Ballroom' is about 70 cm.

Presently, the commercial cultivar to which 'Ballroom' can be meaningfully compared is 'Silidream' (unpatented). On the midlobe of the labellum of 'Ballroom' there is some grey/purple, whereas on the midlobe of 'Silidream' there is not. Also the flower of 'Ballroom' is larger than the flower of 'Silidream' and the raceme of 'Ballroom' is larger in length than the raceme of 'Silidream'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Phalaenopsis* 'Ballroom' showing the colors as true as is reasonably possible with colored reproductions of this type. Colors in the photographs may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description, which accurately describe the color of 'Ballroom'.

FIG. 1 shows a side view perspective of a typical flowering plant of 'Ballroom' in a 12 cm pot, at 16 months of age.

FIG. 2 shows a close-up view of the typical flower of 'Ballroom'.

FIG. 3 shows a close-up view of the typical leaves of 'Ballroom'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The new *Phalaenopsis* cultivar 'Ballroom' has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype of the new cultivar may vary with variations in environment such as temperature, light intensity, and day length without any change in the genotype of the plant.

The aforementioned photographs, together with the following observations, measurements and values describe plants of 'Ballroom' as grown in a greenhouse in Strengweg, Heemskerk, The Netherlands, under conditions which closely approximate those generally used in commercial practice. Initially, the ideal temperature to grow plants of 'Ballroom' is 27° C. during the day and at night. Then, during the flowering phase of 'Ballroom', the ideal growing temperature is 20-22° C. during the day and 18° C. at night. Light levels for growing 'Ballroom' are a minimum of 5,000 lux and a maximum of 10,000 lux. A balanced fertilizer with

level of 200 ppm N, 87 ppm P, 168 ppm K is applied. Duration of growth of 'Ballroom' from potting size is between 10 and 14 months.

Color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart (R.H.S.), 2007 edition, except where general colors of ordinary significance are used. Color values were taken under daylight conditions at approximately noon in Zaandammerweg, Assendelft, The Netherlands. The age of the 'Ballroom' plants described is 12 months after potting.

Classification:

Botanical.—*Phalaenopsis hybrida*.

Parentage:

Female or seed parent.—*Phalaenopsis* cultivar designated 'Hawaiian Dream', unpatented.

Male or pollen parent.—*Phalaenopsis* cultivar designated 'Premium', unpatented.

Propagation:

Type.—Tissue culture.

Rooting habit and description.—Fleshy; approximately 3 mm-6 mm wide and greyed/green in color (RHS 190C); freely branching. It takes 12 weeks for plants growing in tissue culture to initiate roots.

Plant:

Size at maturity.—Height (from bottom of pot to highest flower): about 70 cm. Spread: about 60 cm.

Growth habit.—Standard; green leaves (RHS N137A) and a relatively normal raceme.

Vigor.—Moderate.

Crop time.—Following asexual propagation, at about 26 weeks 2 leaves appear; at about 30 weeks 3-4 leaves appear; after a cold treatment of about 4-8 weeks at a temperature of about 19° C. about 1 to 2 racemes with flowers appear.

Foliage:

Quantity per plant.—About 6-8 leaves are produced before flowering.

Arrangement and attachment.—Half up/horizontal and on two sides.

Overall shape of leaf.—Oval; the tip is blunt and asymmetric.

Texture (upper & underside).—Smooth and leathery.

Pubescence.—None.

Mature leaf length.—About 23 cm.

Mature leaf width.—About 10 cm.

Mature leaf thickness.—About 2 mm.

Mature leaf color.—Upper side: green (RHS N137A). Under side: green (RHS 137C).

Leaf base.—Acute.

Margin.—Entire.

Venation.—Pattern: parallel. Color of midvein: Upper side: green (RHS 139A). Under side: green (RHS 138A).

Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Upright to slightly pendant, racemose inflorescence with bilaterally symmetrical flowers that open in succession beginning with the lowermost flower.

Raceme.—Quantity per plant: about 1 to 2. Number of flowers per raceme: about 10-15. Length: about 70 cm.

Peduncle.—Diameter: about 5 mm. Strength: strong. Aspect: upright. Texture: glabrous and smooth. Color: green (RHS 137A) with brown (RHS 200A). Internode: Length: about 50 mm.

Buds.—Height (from base to tip): about 28 mm. Diameter (at midpoint): about 26 mm. Shape: oval/egg-shaped. Color: yellow/green (RHS 145B and RHS 145C) with a red/purple haze (RHS 71A). Orientation: same as flowers (forward facing).

Flowering time.—For an untreated plant (flowering plant that has not undergone cold-treatment where the plant grows at a temperature of 18° C. to 19° C. for about 4 to 8 weeks after a period of about 30 weeks at a temperature of 25° C.), 1-2 racemes appear with flower buds and flowers. First flowers can be expected approximately 4 to 6 months after planting a plant with a leaf diameter of 3 to 5 cm. Flowers persistent.

Flowering longevity.—On the plant: about 4 to 6 months; lastingness of cut flowers: has not been observed.

Fragrance.—No fragrance.

Flower.—Rate of opening: Flowers fully opened about 2 to 3 days after petal and sepal separation. Orientation at opening: slanted upward and outward. Shape: Typical shape of *Phalaenopsis*, see FIG. 2. Size (of single bloom): Height: about 90 mm. Diameter: about 110 mm. Quantity and arrangement: three petals and three sepals that are trimerous, overlapping and arranged in 2 whorls. Petals are more pronounced than sepals.

Petals.—Arrangement: Inner whorl comprises 3 petals: 2 lateral petals and labellum. 2 lateral petals: Overall shape: broadly ovate and weakly cupped. Apex: oval. Margin: entire and weakly undulate. Base: broadly ovate. Length: about 68 mm. Width: about 52 mm. Texture: Upper surface: smooth and satiny. Under surface: smooth and satiny. Color (when fully opened): Upper side: white (RHS NN155D). Under side: white (RHS NN155D). Labellum: Overall shape: 3-lobed with 2 prominent callosities at central junction of the lateral lobes and base of the midlobe. Lateral lobes of labellum fold upward about the column; the midlobe extends forward and is terminated by 2 filiform appendages at the apex. Lateral lobes of the labellum are ovate in shape while the midlobe is triangular with a bump and a rib on it. Margin: entire and weakly undulate. Apex: oval. Length: about 24 mm. Width (not flattened): about 25 mm. Depth of tube created by lateral lobes of labellum: about 11 mm. Texture: Upper & under surface: smooth and satiny. Color (when fully opened): Mid lobe, upper side: Main color is white (RHS NN155D). At the base and the upper edges grey/purple (RHS 183D). On the middle vein yellow (RHS 5A) with grey/purple (RHS 183D). Corners are yellow (RHS 5A) and green/yellow (RHS 1B). Under side: Main color is white (RHS NN155D). At the base and upper edges grey/purple (RHS 183D). Corners are yellow (RHS 5A) and green/yellow

(RHS 1B). On the mid vein a yellow haze (RHS 5C). Lateral lobes, upper side: main color is white (RHS NN155D). Under edge from base till half way grey/purple (RHS 183D). After that green/yellow (RHS 1B) and yellow (RHS 5A). At the base also some red/purple stripes (RHS 59A). Under side: main color is white (RHS NN155D). At the base and part of the under edge grey/purple (RHS 183D). Under edge further yellow (RHS 5A) and green/yellow (RHS 1B). Cirrhi: about 18 mm. color: white (RHS NN155D) with yellow (RHS 2C). Pestle (Callosities): Length: about 5 mm. Width (not flattened): about 8 mm. Color: yellow (RHS 13B) with grey/purple (RHS 183B) spots and stripes.

Sepals.—Arrangement: Outer whorl comprises 3 sepals, one dorsal and two lateral sepals. Overall shape: elliptical and weakly cupped. Margin: entire and weakly undulate. Length: about 45 mm. Width: about 29 mm. Apex: oval lateral is also a little pointy. Texture: Upper and under surface: smooth and satiny. Color (when fully opened): Upper side, dorsal: white (RHS NN155D). Lateral: white (RHS NN155D) with yellow/green haze (RHS 145C). Under side, dorsal: white (RHS NN155D) with at the base a yellow/green haze (RHS 145C) and close to the top a red/purple haze (RHS 77A). Lateral: white (RHS NN155D) with at the base a yellow/green haze (RHS 145C) and at the top (also on the end of the vein) a red/purple haze (RHS 77A).

Pedicle.—Length: about 50 mm. Diameter: about 4 mm. Texture: glabrous and smooth. Color: starting at the flower green/white (RHS 157D) with a light purple haze (RHS 70B) which runs into yellow/green (RHS 145A and RHS 145B).

Reproductive organs:

Arrangement.—The stamens, style and stigmas are fused into a single, short structure called the column, possessing one terminal anther with pollen grains united into a pollinia, which are covered by an anther cap. The stigma is located under the column behind the pollinia. The ovary is inferior with three carpels present. The plant has not produced seed.

Column.—Length: about 9 mm. Diameter: about 5 mm. Color: white (RHS NN155D).

Pollinia.—Quantity: two. Diameter: about 2 mm. Color: yellow/orange (RHS 23A).

Ovary.—Length: about 3 mm. Diameter: about 5 mm. Color: white (RHS NN155D).

Disease/pest resistance/susceptibility: No specific resistance or susceptibility observed.

Temperature tolerance: Tolerant to a low temperature of about 15° C. and to a high temperature about 30° C.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct *Phalaenopsis* plant named 'Ball-room', as illustrated and described herein.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2

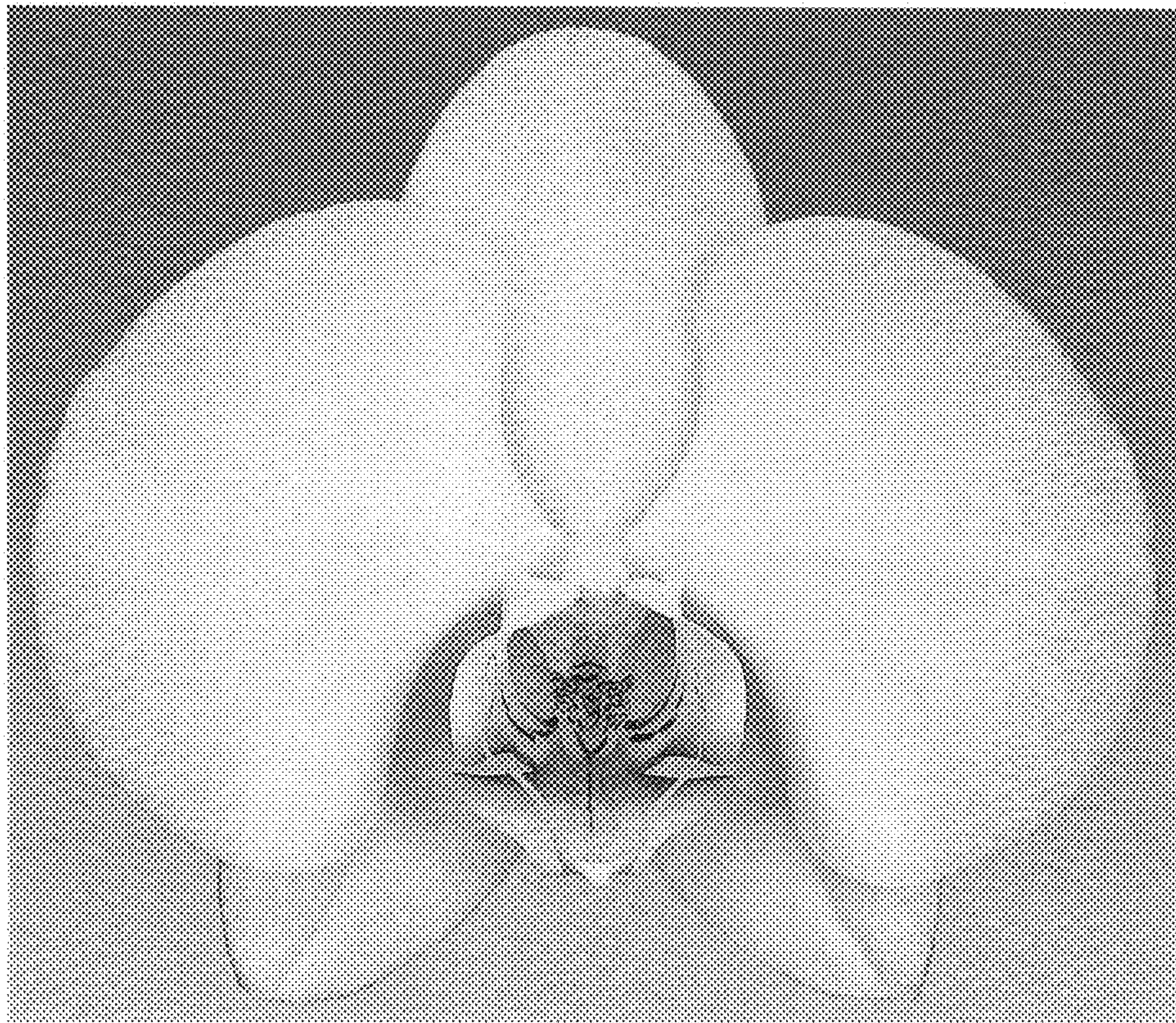


FIG. 3

